

Indiana Dunes State Park

Nature Center

1600 N. 25 E. Chesterton, Indiana 46304 • (219) 926-1390

September Nature Center Hours: 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. CDT Daily

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

PARK STAFF:

Brandt Baughman, Property Manager
Doug Stukey, Assistant Property Manager
219-926-1952

Mike Mycroft, MM, Interpretive Naturalist
Chris Allen, CA, Interpretive Naturalist
Jim Erdelac, JE, Interpretive Naturalist
219-926-1390

Friday, September 1

11am Beach Trail Exploration- Come view the commonly tread beach-trail with a fresh set of eyes in this 30-minute hike starting at the campground shelter. CA

Saturday, September 2

11am Fascinating Fossils- Join a naturalist at the Pavilion for a hike to find some of these abundant fossils during this 1-hour easy hike. CA

2-4pm Naturalist on the Run- Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects. JE

7:30pm Land of Sand- Bring lawn chairs and join us at the Campground Shelter near site 116 for a virtual tour of the park and chances to win prizes. 1 hour program and slide show. MM

Sunday, September 3

11am Meshing with the Marsh – Learn all about the Park's wetlands on this 30-minute short hike from the Nature Center. CA

2pm Blaze of Glory- Why do we set some areas of the park on fire? Learn the benefits and control techniques of prescribed fire during this 30-min. program at the Nature Center. JE

6:30 Beautiful Blowout- Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for this 1-hour easy hike to see one of the most beautiful sunsets in the Midwest from way atop beach house blowout. On the way back discover some of the parks nocturnal animals. JE

11am Wildlife Signs – Become a wildlife detective and learn how to implement your new skills during this 30-min. program at the Nature Center. CA
2pm The Great Wide Open- Journey to one of the greatest views in the state during this 1 hour moderate hike from the Nature Center. MM

Tuesday, September 5

11am Scales And Tales- Meet some of the resident reptiles up close during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. MM

Wednesday, September 6

11am The Green Machine- Learn more about the little green bug that is destroying ash trees throughout the Midwest during this 30-minute program and short movie at the Nature Center. JE

Thursday, September 7

3pm Ecology Cove- Discover the area in which the "Father of Ecology" Henry Cowles first formulated his theories of plant succession on this 1-hour moderate hike from the Nature Center. JE

Friday, September 8

11am Backyard Wildlife- Turn your backyard into a wildlife oasis- we'll show you how during this 30 min. program in the Nature Center. MM

6-9pm Voyageurs Encampment- Be sure to visit the Ojibwa Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the life and times of the fur-trading era.

Saturday, September 9

9am-8:30pm Voyageurs Encampment- Be sure to visit the Ojibwa Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

10am INShape Walk- Join us at the Pavilion for a 2-mile fitness walk along the beach, one of more than 20 happening simultaneously around the state.

1pm Voyager Hike- Journey back in time with a naturalist and visit fur trading re-enactors along the way. 2-hr hike starting at the Nature Center.

4-6pm Naturalist on the Run- Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects. CA

7:30pm Hiking Through Time- Join us for a 90 min. hike from the Nature Center to explore dune

formation and witness historical fur-trade re-enactors. CA

Sunday, September 10

9am-12pm Voyageurs Encampment - Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the Pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

11am Coast Week Hike and Haul- Join in the clean-up effort at the park. During this 2-hour hike participants will collect trash along the trails with prizes for the top 3 who collect the most. Registration begins at 10:30 am at the Nature Center. All groups must be back by 1pm to qualify for prizes.

Monday, September 11

3pm Sands of Time- Join us at the Nature Center to experience the marvelous dunes in the making during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. Guest Presenter

Tuesday, September 12

11am Campground Critters- Explore the campground in a whole new way during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. MM

Wednesday, September 13

11am Turkey Talk- Hear one of the great success stories that belongs to the turkey during this 30-minute program at the Nature Center. JE

6:30pm Mapping the Past-Charting the Future- Take a closer look at natural resource management in the Dunes during this 1-hr. open house with park staff. Nature Center.

Thursday, September 14

1pm ID That Tree- See some of the largest trees in the park and discover some of the distinguishable characteristics of different species on this 90 min. easy hike from the Nature Center. JE

Friday, September 15

11am September Summit- Join a Naturalist for a hike to the highest point in the park and be rewarded by the wonderful view during this 90 min. moderate hike from the Nature Center. MM

Saturday, September 16

11am Nature Diary– Uncover the tips and tricks of preserving your thoughts and memories during this 1-hour journal/sketching workshop at the Nature Center. CA

1pm Playing In The Sand- Make and take your own work of art during this 30 min. craft project at the Nature Center. MM

3-5pm Naturalist on the Run- Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects. JE

8pm Mobile Mammals- Discover how many of our furry friends call the park home during this 1-hour program and short hike at the Campground Shelter near site 116. JE

Sunday, September 17

11am Eagle Adventures- Discover the world of our national bird during this 30 min. movie at the Nature Center. JE

1pm Trees of the Dunes- See some of the diverse trees in the park and discover some interesting facts on this 1-hour easy hike from the Pavilion. CA

Monday, September 18

11am Wild About Wildflowers- See the colorful side of the dunes from the comfort of our Nature Center auditorium during this 30 min. program. MM

Tuesday, September 19

3pm Attracting Butterflies- Discover ways of attracting butterflies to your own back yard during this 1 hour movie at the Nature Center.

Wednesday, September 20

11am Something Fishy- Discover some of the various game and bait fish species of the lake in this 30-min. program at the Nature Center. JE

3pm Keeping A Park Healthy- Find out what it takes to keep the natural areas of the park in pristine condition during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. JE

Thursday, September 21

11am Beaks and Talons- The Park is home to many flying predators. Find out for yourself during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. JE

7:30 pm Cool Change- Get a jump start on autumn and see what makes the season tick during this 1-hour program at the Nature Center. MM

Friday, September 22

11am Forest Architecture- Get a behind the scenes look at how a healthy forest is put together during this 45 min. easy hike from the Nature Center. MM

Saturday, September 23

11am World Of The Whitetail- Discover the world of the Whitetail deer and the impacts this critter has on the park during this 30 min. program. JE

4-6pm Naturalist on the Run- Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects. CA

8pm Sensing the Night – Discover how senses are important on this 1-hour night hike starting at the Nature Center. CA

Sunday, September 24

11am Great Lakes Invaders- Find out who the invaders are and how they are changing our great lakes ecosystem during this 30-minute program at the Nature Center. JE

1pm Succession Stroll – Discover the various habitats of the Dunes on this 1-hour easy hike from the Pavilion. CA

Monday, September 25

3pm Treasure at Your Feet- Discover the world of rocks, minerals, and more during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. Guest Presenter

Tuesday, September 26

3pm How To Begin Bird Watching- Discover the basics of birding during this 50 min. movie at the Nature Center.

Wednesday, September 27

11am Natural History of Lake Michigan-

Over the years many species have come and gone from the lake. Find out who they are and why during this 30-min. program at the Nature Center. JE

Thursday, September 28

11am Dune Detectives- Want to solve natural mysteries? We'll get you started during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. MM

7pm Preparing for the Deep Freeze-

Discover how animals of the dunes prepare for the coming winter during this 1-hr easy hike from the Nature Center. JE

Friday, September 29

3pm Wildfire- Ever wonder what it takes to be a Wildland Firefighter? Find out during this 30-minute program and short movie at the Nature Center. JE

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at 1-866-622-6746 or on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

Saturday, September 30

11am History Of The Dunes— Join a Naturalist at the historic Pavilion and discover some of the rich history of the park during this 45-min. easy hike. CA

2pm Exotic Invasion- Discover the exotic plant species that are competing with our native plants for water, nutrients and sunlight during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. JE

4-6pm Naturalist on the Run- Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects. CA

6pm Top O' The Dunes- Join a Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for this 1-hour moderate hike to the top of Mt. Tom, the tallest point on the property and soak in one of the most beautiful sunsets you'll ever lay eyes on. JE

Sunday, October 1

11am Crazy for Crinoids— Is it a plant or an animal? Join a Naturalist at the historic Pavilion and go hunting for real fossils during this 45-min. easy hike. CA

1pm Reptiles in the Dunes- experience the scaly side of the park during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. CA